

Oct. 27 / Administration of George Bush, 1992

Memorandum of Disapproval for Legislation To Include Revere Beach, Massachusetts, in the National Park System

October 27, 1992

I am withholding my approval of H.R. 2109, which would require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Revere Beach, Massachusetts, and provide alternatives on the appropriate Federal role in preserving and interpreting this site.

The National Park Service (NPS) studies many sites to determine if they are nationally significant and therefore suitable for inclusion in the National Park System. A site is nationally significant if it is an outstanding example of a unique natural, historic, or cultural resource with demonstrated importance to the entire Nation.

In many instances, the Congress has used the findings of a congressionally mandated NPS study, regardless of the study's conclusion, to justify authorization of a new unit of the National Park System. To restore credibility and a national focus to its study process, the NPS reestablished in 1991 a program to evaluate sites and prioritize candidates for future study. The most promising candidates identified by the NPS experts would be proposed for formal study.

For my fiscal year 1993 Budget request,

NPS professionals rated and ranked 41 candidates from criteria established by the Department of the Interior. The fiscal year 1993 Budget proposed \$1.2 million to study the seven highest-rated candidates from the list of 41 originally reviewed. The Congress appropriated \$848,000 to conduct four of the studies proposed by the NPS.

The NPS experts have not identified the Revere Beach study as a high priority. The effect of this legislation would be to place completion of this study before the completion of other studies that the experts agree are much more important to the Nation.

H.R. 2109 would ignore professional analysis and budget constraints. It would also undermine the critical objective of identifying and evaluating the Nation's most promising natural, historic, and cultural assets for protection as units of the National Park System. I am therefore withholding my approval of H.R. 2109.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
October 27, 1992.

Statement on Signing the Battered Women's Testimony Act of 1992

October 27, 1992

Today I am signing into law H.R. 1252, the "Battered Women's Testimony Act of 1992."

Each year, more than 3 million women are the victims of domestic violence. Of these, between 3,000 and 4,000 are murdered by a spouse or domestic partner. Many of these attacks are witnessed by children.

Some victims of domestic violence are driven to retaliate and even kill their abusive spouses. In some cases these victims may raise as a legal defense "battered woman's syndrome." This syndrome, which some experts believe is brought on by re-

peated physical, mental, or sexual attacks by a spouse or partner, may help to explain or extenuate these retaliatory attacks. Expert testimony regarding the nature and effect of "battered woman's syndrome" is not universally accepted by all the States.

H.R. 1252 addresses the problems associated with the defense of "battered woman's syndrome" in two ways. First, it authorizes a study on the admissibility of expert testimony on the experiences of battered women in the defense of criminal cases under State law. Second, the bill directs the development and dissemination of training materials to assist battered women and